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Fortifications Appropriation Bill, 1922

HEARINGS

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS UNITED STATES SENATE

SIXTY-SIXTH CONGRESS

THIRD SESSION

ON

H. R. 16100

A BILL MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FORTIFICATIONS AND OTHER WORKS OF DEFENSE, FOR THE ARMAMENT THEREOF, AND FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF HEAVY ORDNANCE FOR TRIAL AND SERVICE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1922, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Printed for the use of the Committee on Appropriations

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GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
1921

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON FORTIFICATIONS APPROPRIATION BILL.

REED SMOOT, Utah, *Chairman.*

WILLIAM S. KENYON, Iowa.	LEE S. OVERMAN, North Carolina.
FREDERICK HALE, Maine.	ROBERT L. OWEN, Oklahoma.
SELDEN P. SPENCER, Missouri.	CHARLES A. CULBERSON, Texas.
TRUMAN H. NEWBERRY, Michigan.	WILLIAM J. HARRIS, Georgia.

KENNEDY F. REA, *Clerk.*

FORTIFICATIONS APPROPRIATION BILL, 1922.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1921.

UNITED STATES SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE OF COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS,
Washington, D. C.

The subcommittee met at 10 o'clock a. m., Senator Reed Smoot presiding.

Present, Senators Smoot (chairman), Kenyon, Hale, Overman, and Harris.

STATEMENTS OF BRIG. GEN. H. M. LORD, CHIEF OF FINANCE, MAJ. F. W. BROWNE, AND MR. GEORGE R. TAYLOR.

Senator SMOOT. Gen. Lord, I want to take up these unexpended balances, and as I stated to you yesterday, I would like to have you let us know just what the real balances are. I want to clean up those accounts entirely and have no more unexpended balances from now on in the department. If you will take the marked bill and turn to page 14 we will take up each one of them separately.

The first of these items is casemates, galleries, etc., for submarine mines, 1921, $30,000.

Gen. LORD. Maj. Browne will be here in a moment, and he can explain that.

Senator SMOOT. He said yesterday that there was $80,000 on hand and that $50,000 was appropriated on this bill, and on page 2 there is an item—

For construction of mining casemates, cable galleries, submarine-mine storehouses, cable tanks, and other structures necessary for the operation, preservation, and care of submarine mines and their accessories, and for providing channels for access to submarine-mine wharves, the sum of $50,000 of the appropriation for this purpose for the fiscal year 1921 is made available.

Leaving $30,000 to be turned into the Treasury.

Gen. LORD. Which was the total amount available.

Senator SMOOT. We will go on to the next one. The next item is aviation stations, seacoast defenses, $3,000,000.

Gen. LORD. Yes; the Treasury balance is $6,498,243.23. That was the Treasury balance on yesterday.

The outstanding obligations are $3,356,834.71.

The free balance left is $3,141,408.52, of which $3,000,000 is carried in the bill as available for repeal, which would leave a balance for any contingencies outstanding over and above the amount actually obligated of only $141,408.52.

Senator SMOOT. Can you not put the full amount in, $3,141,408.52, and if there are any additional obligations make an appropriation for it?

Gen. LORD. That is a question of policy which is for the committee to decide.

Senator SMOOT. I want to close them up. I want to state on the floor of the Senate that these accounts are closed.

Gen. LORD. Just a moment. I will give you the condition on that. Maj. Browne is here and he is familiar with the hearings. He says that additional $141,408.52 may safely be repealed.

Maj. BROWNE. I have a small additional amount that perhaps can go in. I should like to say in explanation of that, there were two appropriations for these aviation stations in the fortification acts.

In the fortification act of 1917 there was an appropriation of $3,600,000 which was mainly for the purchase of equipment.

The current bill provides for making available $688,277.60 of this appropriation of 1917 in order to pay existing contract obligations for equipment. That is on page 6 of the bill at the bottom of the page. Now, that would leave an additional balance of $71,604.73.

Senator SMOOT. That we could add to this?

Maj. BROWNE. It should not be added to it, but should be put in as a separate item under the title "Aviation stations, seacoast defenses."

Gen. LORD. No year.

Senator SMOOT. How much?

Maj. BROWNE. $71,604.73.

Senator SMOOT. That will balance it up?

Maj. BROWNE. That is in addition to the other items.

Senator SMOOT. In addition to the $3,000,000?

Maj. BROWNE. Yes.

Gen. LORD. And then the $141,408.52 in addition?

Senator SMOOT. Yes. We are trying to balance this up, to close the whole thing up.

Senator HALE. These are appropriations that have already been made in the past?

Senator SMOOT. They are authorized appropriations, and unexpended balances, and I want to close these all up, so that if there is anything more we will know that we appropriate for it, and know for what we appropriate. However, we keep the outstanding obligations still in the account, an amount to pay those obligations that we know we have.

Gen. LORD. I would like to have Maj. Browne make a statement relative to the casemates, galleries, etc., for submarine mines.

Senator SMOOT. Yes; that is the first item on page 14.

Maj. BROWNE. I want to make just a suggestion as to the language in connection with this withdrawal. The present balance of the current year appropriation is in round numbers $80,000. On page 2 of the bill, in lines 24 to 26, provision is made for expending $50,000. Now the other $30,000 is to be turned in, which will account for practically every cent of the present available funds, leaving the department free to expend, during the remainder of the current year, a part of this $50,000. The language as it stands, as it seems to me, might lead to a little confusion, and I would suggest in line 24, instead of the words "the sum of" the words "a sum not exceeding $50,000."

Senator SMOOT. Yes; that is right, "a sum nor exceeding $50,000." That is what I understood you to say yesterday. That is what I said to Gen. Lord this morning, that that had reference to this $50,000. You are quite sure that that will clean up everything?

Maj. BROWNE. On that item; yes.

Senator SMOOT. The next item is fortifications in insular possessions, 1921, $25,760.

Maj. BROWNE. That is the total amount of the appropriation in the current act for the acquisition of sites in the Hawaiian Islands.

Senator SMOOT. That is, your treasury balance is only $25,760.

Maj. BROWNE. Yes.

Senator SMOOT. And that will all go back, so that is all O. K.

Maj. BROWNE. Yes.

Gen. LORD. That is the total amount of the appropriation.

Senator SMOOT. The next is ordnance material, proceeds of sales (war), $6,000,000.

Gen. LORD. This Appropriations Committee has been providing for years that from sales of ordnance scrap not to exceed $75,000 shall be available annually for expenditure for replacement of ordnance materials. That has been going on for years, and prior to the war they did not receive much more than the amount that they expended, but during the war it accumulated, so that studying the books we found that a balance had accumulated of $6,631,364.88, and I recommended that $6,000,000 of that be repealed, and that is the amount that is carried in this bill. There is an outstanding obligation reported of $300,000.

Senator SMOOT. That would leave a balance of $6,331,364.88?

Gen. LORD. Yes; and deducting the $6,000,000 that leaves $331,364.88.

Senator SMOOT. We had better increase the amount that is repealed.

Gen. LORD. Just a moment. There is a possibility that there will be charges against that, where moneys have been credited as belonging to proceeds of sales were not properly credited to that fund and taken out and transferred to the proper appropriation. It goes to miscellaneous receipts, instead of being credited here.

Senator SMOOT. How much can we take out? If there is any difference we can arrange that.

Gen. LORD. Yes; take out all of it.

Senator SMOOT. If there is anything wrong, we can arrange that. Take out $6,331,364.88.

Now the next is automatic rifles, 1919, $23,000,000.

Gen. LORD. The Treasury balance is $37,228,294.43.

Senator SMOOT. And the outstanding obligations are how much?

Gen. LORD. $13,210,029.55.

Senator SMOOT. And your free balance is how much?

Gen. LORD. $24,018,264.88.

Senator SMOOT. Why can we not put in that full amount?

Gen. LORD. Will you make it $24,000,000?

Senator SMOOT. Leaving you $18,264.88?

Gen. LORD. Yes; leaving $18,264.88 for adjustments.

Senator SMOOT. All right.

Gen. LORD. Yes.

Senator SMOOT. Making the item in the bill $24,000,000?

Gen. LORD. Yes. That leaves $18,264.88 for adjustments over and above the amount that they report as obligated.

Senator SMOOT. Yes. The next item is armored motor cars, 1919 and 1920, $17,500,000.

Gen. LORD. The Treasury balance is $26,459,985.77.

The outstanding obligations reported are $7,725,197.12, leaving a free balance of $18,734,788.65.

We have recommended for repeal $17,500,000.

Senator SMOOT. Is there any need of keeping any of that?

Gen. LORD. We do need a little something for adjustments.

Senator SMOOT. What amount, $34,000?

Gen. LORD. That will be all right.

Senator SMOOT. Then, we will just simply make that $18,700,000.

Gen. LORD. $18,700,000 will do.

Senator SMOOT. That leaves you $34,788.65 for adjustments.

Gen. LORD. Yes. Of course, these statements of the amounts obligated are the best estimates that the services can get.

Senator SMOOT. I understand that.

Gen. LORD. And when we get final settlements later, we may find that there may be something more coming out of these outstanding obligations, but we can not count on it. It would not be fair to the services to count on it.

Senator SMOOT. The next item is the ammunition for antiaircraft guns, Army, 1917–1919, $200,000. That is the total balance which is covered back, so you can not make any change in that. That is O. K.

Gen. LORD. Yes.

Senator SMOOT. That clears it up.

Gen. LORD. Yes.

Senator SMOOT. The next is arms, uniforms, equipment, etc., field service, National Guard, 1919, $1,000,000. The Treasury balance is $1,679,434.12, the outstanding obligations $104,396.45, leaving you a free balance of $1,575,037.67.

Gen. LORD. Yes.

Senator SMOOT. Can we not put all of that in?

Gen. LORD. Mr. Taylor, who is the head of the funding division of my office, thinks we can spare half a million dollars in addition out of that.

Senator SMOOT. That will leave you $75,000?

Gen. LORD. Yes.

Senator SMOOT. Making the item $1,500,000 and leaving you a balance of $75,037.67 for adjustments?

Gen. LORD. Yes. We are in a better position every day as we get toward the end of this fiscal year, so we are in that much better position to talk definitely about these items.

Senator SMOOT. The next item is ordnance stores and equipment, civilian military training camps, 1919, $250,000. There is nothing in that, because that is the full amount of the Treasury balance.

Gen. LORD. Yes.

Senator SMOOT. So that is O. K.? The next is ordnance stores, equipment, etc. Reserve Officers' Training Corps, 1919, $500,000.

Gen. LORD. That leaves us $16,578.69 for adjustments.

Senator SMOOT. You can put that in, can you not, the whole $516,000, so as to balance it right up?

Gen. LORD. There are Treasury adjustments coming, and even if the amount was only three or four dollars, we might have to come in for a deficiency.

Senator SMOOT. Let it go this way, then. I do not want to keep more than enough, though.

The next is ordnance stores, ammunition, 1917 to 1919, $9,000,0 Now, there is a free balance of $9,850,273.16.

Gen. LORD. The Treasury balance is $25,210,669.78. The o standing obligations are $15,360,396.62, and the free balance $9,850,273.16. We have recommended $9,000,000. Make $9,800,000.

Senator SMOOT. That is leaving $50,273.16 for adjustments?

Gen. LORD. Yes.

Senator SMOOT. The next is ordnance stores, ammunition, 1919 a 1920, $35,000,000.

Gen. LORD. The free balance reported is $36,398,698.25. We r ommend $35,000,000 for repeal. Make it $36,000,000.

Senator SMOOT. You have recommended $35,600,000 to me in t letter, but they put in only $35,000,000 in the House.

Gen. LORD. I think it was a mistake.

Senator SMOOT. You have a free balance of $36,398,698.25.

Gen. LORD. Make it $36,000,000 for repeal.

Senator SMOOT. Do you want all of that $398,698.25 for adju ments?

Gen. LORD. Leave us $98,000.

Senator SMOOT. Then make the item $36,300,000.

Gen. LORD. Yes.

Senator SMOOT. Leaving your balance $98,698.25?

Gen. LORD. Yes.

Senator SMOOT. The next item is ordnance stores and supplies, 19 and 1919, $8,000,000.

The Treasury balance is $15,855,447.86, the outstanding oblig tions are $6,772,522.74 and the free balance is $9,082,925.14.

Gen. LORD. You can raise it to $1,000,000.

Senator SMOOT. $9,000,000, leaving a balance of $82,925.14.

Gen. LORD. Yes.

Senator SMOOT. The next item is ordnance stores and suppli 1919 and 1920, $39,000,000.

Gen. LORD. The free balance after deducting obligations $40,414,851.95.

Senator SMOOT. Yes. Do you think you could take o $40,400,000, leaving you $14,851.95?

Gen. LORD. That is 1919–20. That has another year to run yet to prior obligations.

Senator SMOOT. What do you want—$100,000?

Gen. LORD. We have recommended $39,000,000 for repeal. Su pose you make it $40,000,000.

Senator SMOOT. We do not want to leave you $414,851.95.

Gen. LORD. Then will you take $200,000 more?

Senator SMOOT. All right; make it $40,200,000.

Gen. LORD. All right, but if we come in for a deficiency on adju ments, we shall expect a very friendly welcome from the committee.

Senator OVERMAN. Give us notice.

Senator SMOOT. All I want to do is to get the balance settled.

Gen. LORD. You do not desire it any more fervently than we do

Senator SMOOT. That is what I think. The next item is manuf ture of arms, 1917–1919, $400,000. You have a balance $476,094.45.

Gen. LORD. Make it $475,000.

Senator SMOOT. The next is manufacture of arms, 1918 and 1919, $300,000. That is all of the free balance. That cleans that up, so that is all right.

Gen. LORD. Yes. I asked Mr. Taylor yesterday to study the bill just to see if the phraseology was right to accomplish the purpose, and he states that after the figures "1919," in line 18, page 14, you should insert the words "act of June 15, 1917."

Senator SMOOT. That is in the item "ordnance stores, ammunition, 1917 to 1919, $9,000,000"?

Gen. LORD. Yes; the words "act of June 15, 1917," should be inserted.

Mr. TAYLOR. And also in line 24, the words "act of June 15, 1917," should be inserted.

Senator SMOOT. Now in the next item, manufacture of arms, 1919 and 1920, $18,000,000, you have an unexpended balance of $19,304,839.45.

Gen. LORD. We recommend $18,000,000. There is a free balance of $19,304,839.45. You may make that $19,000,000.

Senator SMOOT. Do you want $304,839.45? Do you think you need as much as that?

Gen. LORD. I am depending on Mr. Taylor for this. He has these adjustments to handle. I would not dare go contrary to his judgment in the matter.

Senator SMOOT. All right. Make that $19,000,000. Is that all you can stand, Mr. Taylor?

Gen. LORD. I think we may need every penny of the reservation we have made.

Senator SMOOT. That will leave you $304,839.45 for adjustments.

The next item is target practice, 1917–1919, $1,000,000. Your Treasury balance is $1,545,623.22, your outstanding obligations are $8,238.99, and your free balance is $1,537,383.23.

Gen. LORD. You may add $500,000 to that.

Senator SMOOT. Making it $1,500,000?

Gen. LORD. Yes.

Senator SMOOT. Leaving for adjustment $37,383.23?

Gen. LORD. Yes. That phraseology should be amended the same way, act of June 15, 1917.

Senator SMOOT. The next item is small-arms target practice, 1918 and 1919, $10,000,000. You have a free balance of $11,343,564.29.

Gen. LORD. You can add $1,300,000 to that.

Senator SMOOT. That makes it $11,300,000, and leaves your balance for adjustment $43,564.29.

Gen. LORD. Yes.

Senator SMOOT. The next item is small-arms target practice 1919 and 1920, $3,000,000. Do you need that language in there "act of June 15, 1917"?

Mr. TAYLOR. No, sir, not for 1918 or 1919.

Senator SMOOT. And this next item, small-arms target practice 1919 and 1920, $3,000,000. You have a free balance of $3,600,482.88.

Gen. LORD. Add half a million dollars.

Senator SMOOT. That would make $3,500,000, which would leave for adjustment $100,482.88. That is quite a bit of money for that. It seems to me you ought to add $50,000 more.

Gen. LORD. You see the appropriations stand on the books for a year longer.

Senator SMOOT. The next is engineer operations in the field, 1919, $51,000,000. You have a free balance of $55,859,378.30.

Gen. LORD. We have taken that up with the Office of the Chief of Engineers. He reported his obligations at $18,271,643.90, and this is the total amount that he would approve for repeal—$51,000,000.

Senator SMOOT. There is a free balance of $55,859,378.30.

Gen. LORD. Yes; but the recommendation of his office is that the only amount they have approved for repeal is $51,000,000.

Senator SMOOT. I do not know what he is going to do with $4,859,378.30.

Gen. LORD. I have his recommendation here. I will myself have a subsequent personal interview with the Chief of Engineers.

Senator SMOOT. You had better do that.

Gen. LORD. I will see if he will not consent to a modification.

Senator SMOOT. Then we will leave that open.

Gen. LORD. I will let you know by phone.

Senator SMOOT. Then, if there is no objection on the part of the committee, when Gen. Lord phones, if it is satisfactory, we will put it in then and make that reduction, whatever it is.

Senator OVERMAN. Yes.

Senator SMOOT. The next item is "Engineer equipment of troops, 1919, $2,000,000."

Gen. LORD. That is in the same category.

Senator SMOOT. We will leave that open, too.

The next item is "Inland and port storage and shipping facilities, 1918 and 1919, $4,000,000." That is about what they have got in the way of a free balance, so that will be O. K.

Gen. LORD. Yes.

Senator SMOOT. That is what the balance is?

Gen. LORD. Yes.

Senator SMOOT. The next is "Inland and port storage and shipping facilities, $1,350,000." You have the free balance of $2,682,490.15.

Gen. LORD. Yes. That is all that can be spared in connection with that—$1,350,000.

Senator SMOOT. You have to meet outstanding obligations of $1,332,490.15 if you keep that.

Gen. LORD. Yes; that is the total that is available for obligations for the fiscal year to be incurred, $1,322,490.15, which leaves only the balance we have there. There is more money in there than that, but at the present time it would be unsafe to dip into it any deeper, because the Military Affairs Committee have that matter in hand with a special resolution, in the Army appropriation bill, it being one of the appropriations in that bill providing for the limit of expense in the next succeeding year, a limit upon expenditures for the current year. They have in hand a resolution which they are considering, which was discussed yesterday.

Senator SMOOT. Do you think it is necessary to keep all of this $2,682,000?

Gen. LORD. We are not keeping all of it. We are keeping only $1,332,000. You may take that entire balance, Mr. Chairman.

Senator SMOOT. All of the $2,682,000?

Gen. LORD. All of the $2,682,490.15.

Senator SMOOT. If they do anything with that resolution, there will be an appropriation direct.

Gen. LORD. That will not interfere with them.

Senator SMOOT. And then there will be no duplication.

Gen. LORD. No.

Senator SMOOT. And you will let us know by phone about the other matter?

Gen. LORD. I will take that right up.

STATEMENT OF MR. NEWTON D. BAKER, SECRETARY OF WAR, AND OF MAJ. L. B. MOODY.

Senator SMOOT. Mr. Secretary, I received your letter about 6 o'clock last evening, and we will be very pleased now to hear what you have to say in relation to it.

Secretary BAKER. Senator, I am here to ask you to strike out of the fortifications bill what appears on page 5, where an amendment was introduced cutting down the item of $600,000 to $580,000 and the following provisos were added:

Provided, That the Secretary of War is authorized and directed to sell as soon as possible after the approval of this Act, upon such terms and under such conditions as he may deem most advantageous to the best interests of the Government, two thousand of the tractors owned by the War Department: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of War is hereby authorized and directed to transfer and deliver to the Secretary of Agriculture for distribution among the Highway Departments of the several States for use on roads constructed in whole or in part by Federal aid 1,250 tractors owned by the War Department.

The first of these provisos directs the War Department to sell 2,000 tractors owned by the department, and the second proviso directs the War Department to distribute through the Agricultural Department, for use on roads, an additional 1,250 tractors.

Senator SMOOT. Mr. Secretary, how many of these tractors have you?

Secretary BAKER. We have on hand in the War Department now 6,752 tractors. If you will permit me, I will tell you where they are located and what they are doing.

Senator SMOOT. I wish you would, because the question is asked many times on the floor of the Senate.

Secretary BAKER. There are now issued to the Regular Army and National Guard, and therefore in actual use by the Army and the Guard 3,190 tractors.

When the National Guard has been expanded as is provided by law and by expectation, an additional 2,007 tractors will be necessary to be issued to them, which will make a total of 5,197 and will leave a balance of 1,555.

Now, if the 3,250 which are provided by these two provisos are sold and distributed, there will be a deficit of 1,695 tractors. That, you will understand, is a deficit over the number now actually issued and in use in the Army and the Guard plus the number necessary to equip the Guard authorized and in process of formation. It would leave us 1,695 tractors short of the number necessary for the Army actually in existence plus the National Guard authorized to come into existence

Senator SMOOT. Do you think you could get along if we took out the amendment that was adopted in the House?

Secretary BAKER. Both provisos.

Senator SMOOT. Suppose we disagreed to the second proviso that was adopted in the House:

Provided further, That the Secretary of War is hereby authorized and directed to transfer and deliver to the Secretary of Agriculture for distribution among the highway departments of the several States for use on roads constructed in whole or in part by Federal aid 1,250 tractors owned by the War Department.

Secretary BAKER. Neither amendment ought to be passed. Neither proviso ought to stay in. Let me deal with them separately.

The first proviso which is in the bill authorizes the sale of 2,000 tractors. These are specially constructed artillery tractors. They are very expensive. They are not a commercial type of tractor. They are very expensive to repair. The companies which made them have undertaken to make them commercially useable and have failed to be able to sell them for commercial use. Other tractors are just as good and not as expensive for the kinds of use that the public have for tractors; so if we should sell 2,000 of these tractors we would have to sell them for a very small price and get next to nothing for them, because they are not commercially as desirable as tractors that are less expensive to repair. We would get a very small price for them.

Senator OVERMAN. There was a provision in the Army appropriation bill requiring you to sell. Will that conflict with this?

Secretary BAKER. I do not get that, Senator.

Senator OVERMAN. I introduced an amendment yesterday providing that you should distribute what you could and then sell the surplus.

Secretary BAKER. The motor cars and trucks are a very different proposition. This deals with the special item of 5 and 10 ton tractors. We have no other tractors left in the Army besides these, except a few obsolescent ones.

Senator SMOOT. Does your amendment apply to tractors or apply to motor trucks?

Senator OVERMAN. To all.

Senator SMOOT. Motor trucks?

Senator OVERMAN. Motor trucks.

Secretary BAKER. If it applies to tractors and deals only with surplus, there will be no difficulty, but if it deals with those that are actually in hand now, there is no surplus of tractors, but instead of that there is an existing deficiency of tractors in the Army.

The second proviso which was added in the House deals with the distribution to the Department of Agriculture. We have already distributed through the Department of Agriculture to the States more than $93,000,000 worth of property usable in the construction of roads. These tractors of which I am speaking are too valuable to be used in that way. When the train or track of one of these tractors breaks, the entire track has to be replaced at a cost of $1,000, and for $1,000 they can buy a traction engine that will do most of the things that they would have one of these tractors doing. It is too highly specialized a tool to be used for that purpose.

Now, may I for a moment give you the larger aspect of it? The Army reorganization bill of June 4, 1920, directs the War Department to be ready for the immediate mobilization of an organized Army of a million men, to be in such condition that we would be

immediately able to mobilize an Army of a million men. In our theory of reserves, in anticipation of any such emergency as that, we have, quite logically, I think, said that those things which are slowest in production should be kept most nearly in adequate supply. Those things which we can go out into the streets and get, or get something nearly as good, we need not keep in such large supply. Tractors of this type, that are able to pull a 155-millimeter cannon, are highly specialized. They are not made except for us, and if we were to start in with orders for those, we would not get the first one delivered under six months, and it would be nine months before we could get enough of them made to equip a million men, plus those we have. So that it is a supply we ought constantly to have in hand up to the theoretical mobilization provided by the National Army reorganization act.

The number of tractors necessary for the initial equipment of an Army of a million men is more than 10,000, and we have only 6,700 now.

Senator SMOOT. Are these tractors under cover?

Secretary BAKER. All under cover.

Senator SMOOT. Where are they located?

Maj. MOODY. The majority are in the hands of troops. The others are principally at Rock Island, Ill.; Erie Proving Ground, and distributed at certain Army reserve depots which would be used in the event of mobilization.

Senator SMOOT. Would the space occupied by these tractors be used for any other purpose?

Maj. MOODY. I am not familiar with that, but as I understand it there is ample covered space now provided for the storage of material of this type.

Secretary BAKER. I can only tell you about Rock Island. I have seen that. We have moved a lot of things from Rock Island, and have gone forward on the theory of making it a single-purpose arsenal, a more strictly limited arsenal for the construction and repair of tractor vehicles and artillery carriages and things of that sort. There is plenty of room at Rock Island for what we are doing, plenty of room to cover these tractors.

Now, I think this may be of value in answering the question: The alternative is this: In the annual cost of upkeep of tractorized artillery as against horse-drawn artillery, we are now saving $3,000,000 a year by having these tractors, as against what we would be required to have if we had horses. If we did not have the 10,000 or 20,000, as the case may be, of tractors necessary for the mobilization of a million men, it would mean the immediate purchase of large numbers of horses and vastly greater upkeep cost.

Senator SMOOT. Eating their heads off all the time, and requiring men to curry them?

Secretary BAKER. Yes.

Senator OVERMAN. How many tractors have you on hand now?

Secretary BAKER. Altogether, 6,752.

Senator OVERMAN. How many are necessary for the Army?

Secretary BAKER. The number necessary for a mobilized army of a million men is 10,800 to start with, and 20,800 for the first year.

Senator OVERMAN. Suppose you do not mobilize?

Secretary BAKER. If we did not mobilize at all, we have in use by the Army 3,190, and the National Guard which is in process of

formation will need an additional 2,007, which makes 5,197, and leaves only 1,555. The life of a tractor is five years. In the next five years we will have to replace 3,190 tractors now in use; so that in five years, if we give away a single tractor, we will have to buy a tractor to replace it.

Senator OVERMAN. Here is the amendment I spoke of.

Provided, That the Secretary of War is authorized and directed to ascertain the requirements of the Department of Agriculture for its own use and that of the several States in road work and maintenance of roads in other executive departments as pertaining to motor vehicles, and after supplying the needs of the several departments, as authorized and directed, under existing legislation, to sell as soon as possible after the approval of this act, upon such terms and conditions as are deemed most advantageous for the best interests of the Government, any remaining motors and automobiles which are surplus and not needed by the War Department.

Secretary BAKER. That is perfectly unobjectionable. There could be no objection to that.

Senator SMOOT. I think we understand it.

(Whereupon, at 11 o'clock a. m., the subcommittee proceeded to the consideration of other business.)

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